

United States Embassy Seoul, Republic of Korea

Security Message for U.S. Citizens:

Demonstrations marking the anniversary of the Sewol Ferry sinking.

Date: April 13, 2015

April 16 marks the one year anniversary of the Sewol Ferry sinking. While demonstrations related to the Sewol sinking have occurred regularly, particularly in the area of Gwanghwamun Square, located directly in front of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, there is a potential for demonstrations to escalate in the days surrounding the April 16th anniversary. Increased pedestrian traffic and congestion in the area of Gwanghwamun Square may be expected, and persons accessing the main entrance gate of the Embassy on Sejong Road and the entrance for consular services on Sambung Street should consider approaching from a different direction and exercise caution.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution when in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Be vigilant and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](http://travel.state.gov) at travel.state.gov. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Monitor the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution on [State Department's website](http://state.gov). Read the [Country Specific Information for Republic of Korea](http://state.gov). For additional information, refer to the ["Traveler's Checklist."](http://state.gov)

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S.

federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul is located at 188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., telephone 02 397-4000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance *outside of business hours*, **the emergency after-hours number for the U.S. Embassy/Consulate is 02 397-4114.**